

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 /054 W

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R 160900Z AUG 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2281

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A. DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1977

TAGS: SREF, IZ

REF: STATE 187643

1. LIMITED DATA GIVEN REFTEL DO NOT RPT NOT GIVE US
ADQUATE BASIS FOR ASSESSING PERSONAL MERITS OF
SUBJECT'S PLIGHT--WHICH APPEAR BASED ON SELF-SERVING,
UNDOCUMENTED ASSERTIONS. FOLLOWING GENERAL CONSIDER-
ATIONS MAY, HOWEVER, BE HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT.

2. RE COMMENTS PARA TWO REFTEL, IT IS POSSIBLE TO
DOUBT SUBJECT'S CLAIMS HE WOULD BE "IMPRISONED, TOR-
TURED AND POSSIBLY EXECUTED" IF HE RETURNED TO IRAQ
SIMPLY DUE FACT THAT HE IS "CHRITTIAN OPPOSED BAATHIST
PARTY." "OPPOSED" IS CLEARLY A CATCH-ALL WORD. BAATH
REGIME IN IRAQ DOES NOT RPT NOT DEPEND ON BROAD-BASED
POPULAR SUPPORT FROM ANY SECTOR OF POPULATION WHETHER
MUSLIM OR CHRISTIAN. DOES SUBJECT IMPLY THAT HIS OPPOSITION
GOES NOTABLY BEYOND THAT OF AVERAGE IRAQI? BELIEVE
IMPORTANT TO ENQUIRE WHETHER HIS OPPOSITION WAS OVERT?
WAS IT INSIDE OR OUTSIDE IRAQ? WAS HE PUNISHED FOR IT?

3. UNABLE CONFIRM SUBJECT' CLAIM HE IS ON PASSPORT OFFICE
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BLACKLIST. WHAT IS EVIDENCE? STATEMENT HIS SISTER

IS "PRISONER" IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, IF ONLY IN THE LIMITED SENSE THAT MOST YOUNG TECHNOCRATS HERE HAVE DIFFICULT TIME GETTING EXIT VISA--AS ANTI-BRAIN DRAIN PRECAUTION. INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SUBJECT'S MOTHER WAS ALLOWED MAKE RECENT TRIP TO USA.

4. ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT FORECAST GOI ACTIONS IN SUCH CASES, IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR SOME IRAQI CITIZENS TO USE FACT OF UNSAVORY PRACTICES OF REGIME TO THEIR PERSONAL ADVANTAGE, PARTICULARLY IN RE ENTERING USA THROUGH UNHCR PROGRAM BEIRUT. FACT IS SUBJECT'S MOTHER, ANOTHER CHRISTIAN WHO APPEARS FROM REFTEL SHARE HIS ANTIPATHY TO REGIME, DID GET GOI TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION. THIS SEEMS INDICATE FAMILY, AT LEAST, NOT BEING SUBJECTED TO "PERSECUTION" IN SENSE OF SECTION 243 (H) OF THE ACT.

5. GOI IS CURRENTLY MAKING MAXIMUM PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT ENCOURAGE RETURN OF OVERSEAS IRAQI TO PUT THEIR SHOULDERS TO WHEEL OF MASSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NOW UNDERWAY. REASONABLE TO ATTRIBUTE MUCH OF THRUST OF CURRENT CLEMENCY TOWARDS ERSTWHILE KURDISH REBELS TO PRAGMATIC GOI REALIZATION THAT EVERY ABLE-BODIED PERSON IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL GOALS AND THAT VERY LITTLE CREATIVE WORK IS DONE IN JAILS. IRAQ OBVIOUSLY CENTURIES BEHIND USA IN VALUE IT PLACES ON PERSONAL LIBERTY BUT PERSON WHO IS WILLING TO WORK AND KEEP A LOW POLITICAL PROFILE IS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO BE PERSECUTED. OVERT POLITICAL OPPOSITION IS CLEARLY, HOWEVER, NOT GOING TO BE EITHER REWARDED OR TOLERATED.
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